THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) and (b) Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly River system from Allahabad to Haldia has been declared as a National Waterway and basic infrastructure facilities such as navigable channel, navigational aids and terminals have been provided there on to facilitate inland water transport.

Proposal for Gopalpur Port in Orissa

1607. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to make Gopalpur Port in Orissa as all weather port;

(b) if so, the specific steps taken in that regard; and

(c) the assistance extended by Government for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) to (c) Gopalpur port in Orissa is not a major port. As per the provisions of Indian Ports Act, 1908, the responsibility for up-gradation/development of ports other than major ports lies with the State Government concerned, which also have administrative control on such ports.

Ship service from Allahabad to Farakka

1608. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) by when the ship service from Allahabad to Farakka would start functioning on Ganga river from commercial point of view;

(b) the details of the action taken in this direction; and

(c) the details of the cost of this project along with the amount spent so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) to (c) The river Ganga from Haldia to Allahabad has been declared as a National

Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Waterway and basic infrastructure facilities such as navigational channel, terminals and navigational aids have been provided. The amount spent out on development and maintenance of National Waterway No. 1 from 1986-87 to 2002-03 is approximately Rs. 118.43 crores. The Central Inland Water Transport Corporation and some private operators are already operating on this waterway. However, at the moment, the frequency of shipping service on this route is low, mainly on account of non-availability of adequate cargo.

Problems faced by CIWTC Ltd.

1609. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representatives of the confederation of CIWTC Ltd. met him in Kolkata and submitted a memorandum on various problems and difficulties being faced by them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether during the meeting he assured the employees' representatives of quick action and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) to (d) Representations dated 4.7.2003 and 22.7.2003 have been received from the Confederation of CIWTC Ltd. These representations relate to (i) allegations against the Management and (ii) revival package under implementation. Action has been initiated to examine the representations.

Revival Package for CIWTC Ltd.

1610. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the CIWTC Ltd. for its revival within a span of four years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and when;